

Appl. No. 10/076,608
Rule 312(a) Amdt. dated August 11, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants and their representative acknowledge with appreciation Examiner Mackey and Examiner Walker's courtesies extended during telephone discussions held August 9th and for the kind, constructive suggestion in a voice mail of yesterday, August 10, 2004.

Applicants earnestly, but respectfully, request this Amendment be entered and the new claims 20 et seq. substituted for their identical counterparts from among former claims 1-17.

This application is allowed but the issue fee has not been paid. A fee is not seen as required to enter this Amendment Under Rule 312(a), but if one is, then it may be charged to our deposit account 06-1135 regarding our order number 7388/72611.

This Rule 312(a) Amendment includes claim 18 and 19 and new claims 20-34.

Claims 18 and 19 are designated 'allowed' inasmuch as it is understood that is their status. Claims 18 and 19 basically are duplicative of former claims 8 and 17. Applicants have consequently not presented a "new" claim herein that literally corresponds either former claim 8 or former claim 17 in order to avoid duplicative claims.

New claims 20-27 correspond respectively to former claims 1-7 and 9.

New claims 28-34 correspond respectively to former claims 10-16. New claim 28 includes the Examiner's correction to former claim 10, see the initial Notice of Allowance.

Re-introduction of the specified former claims with new claim numbers 20-34 should avoid new issues and new matter while being consistent with the newer amendment practice guidelines.

Applicants and their representative now appreciate that the Examiner had favorably reconsidered the status claims 1-17 and had allowed all claims 1-19, but unfortunately Applicants were unaware that claims 1-17 had been reconsidered when the Amendment of June 16, 2004 was submitted. In the circumstances, the Amendment of June 16th was unnecessary. It will be appreciated that Applicants would have had and have no intention of abandoning allowable subject matter.

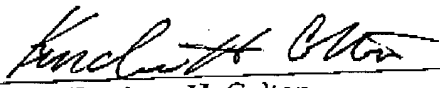
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If, upon review, the Examiners believe something was overlooked in this Amendment, please telephone the undersigned.

This Amendment Under Rule 312(a) is being filed by facsimile to 703-872-9306 ✓
✓ this 11th day of August 2004 per an Examiner's suggestion.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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